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1970 YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE FOCUSES ON TASKS AHEAD

"Contours of Change", the 1970 Yearbook of Agriculture, has been described by Secretary Clifford M. Hardin as "a book for all Americans. It points," he says, "to the task that lies ahead in creating a new promising environment of opportunity -- economic, educational, cultural, recreational -- as America continues to grow."

Within the coming 30 years, this country's population is expected to increase perhaps as much as 100 million. In the decade of the 70's alone, a half-trillion-dollar expansion in economic activities is foreseen, the Secretary declares.

Much of this increase in both the number of people and economic development needs to take place outside the great metropolitan areas. Expansion of present towns and small cities will be required, with new centers of growth in America's heartland, he says.

"It is imperative that the people of rural America start making plans and decisions to assure that this development comes about in an orderly, healthy manner. City dwellers have an equal interest, since a sound pattern of national growth can alleviate many of today's urban problems," the Secretary's foreword continues.

"Agriculture will be deeply involved in the growth process because, as this book indicates, farmers, ranchers, and foresters have stewardship over much of the Nation's land and water resources. Farmers are at work every day on voluntary, cooperative programs to protect and improve America's environmental assets."

Although agriculture is doing "an amazingly efficient job of producing food for an ever larger number of people," Secretary Hardin says, today's farmer is not realizing a rate of return for his labor and capital investment that is commensurate with the rest of the economy.

Among the "Contours of Change" in rural America, the Secretary notes that "There are now about 900,000 fewer operating farms than in 1960 -- largely the result of consolidation into bigger units to achieve maximum benefits of mechanization. Despite their increased size, most farms are still family operated."



Connie Short, State office secretary, reviews "Contours of Change", the latest annual volume in a series of more than 100 Yearbooks of Agriculture.

The Secretary's report also points out that "Some communities in rural America have become virtual ghost towns because the need for the services they once supplied declined with the drop in rural population. Poverty and poor housing are proportionately greater in rural America than in our cities. Many community facilities that urban Americans take for granted are lacking or deficient in rural America. In 1968, out of approximately 57,000 rural communities, some 33,000 lacked a public water system and 43,000 did not have adequate sewage systems."

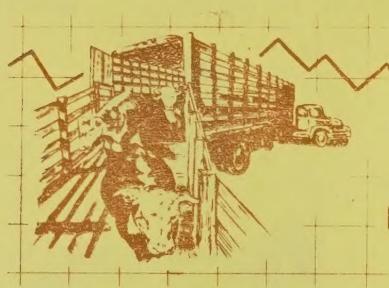
"Contours" has 59 chapters written in popular style illustrated by hundreds of photographs, including many in color. It is divided into four sections: The Agricultural Revolutions, Country and City--One Nation, America's New Role in World Agriculture, and Look Into the Future.

USDA does not have Yearbook copies for distribution. Copies may be purchased for \$3.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Each member of Congress also has a limited number of copies for free distribution.

PALMBY FORECASTS GREATER USE OF WHEAT AS FEED

Increases in beef and poultry consumption throughout the world have opened the way for expanded export and utilization of U.S. wheat and soybeans as feed

grains, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Clarence D. Palmby recently told a feed industry seminar at Kansas State University.



Per capita consumption of beef has doubled during the past 50 years. Poultry consumption in 1920 was only about one third of the amount consumed today.

Although in the past wheat has been classified as a food grain, today wheat may be considered a feed stuff, Mr. Palmby said. Wheat use as feed has increased substantially throughout the world, while wheat used as food has remained rather constant.

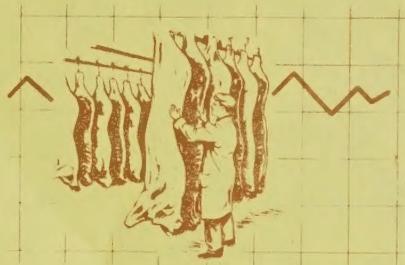
According to Mr. Palmby, "...there is a tremendous opportunity for U.S. wheat to be fed in this country and abroad. But to fully realize this opportunity, the wheat industry must seek vigorously the development of varieties with a higher amino content."

During the last six years, the European Economic Community (EEC) has doubled its use of wheat for feed from 4.7 million metric tons (about 159 million tons) to 9 million metric tons (305 million bushels.)

Mr. Palmby also pointed out that corn leaf blight and drought, pushing the price of corn upward, have enhanced the position of low-priced wheat as a feed grain.

Turning to the soybean situation, the Agriculture official said that Eastern Europe last year imported 476,000 metric tons of soybeans and soybean products. He predicted that within five years the imports of soybean meal will double. Eventually these countries will use 1 million tons of soybean meal per year if Eastern Europe continues to nurture its hog growing industry on a mixture of seeds containing large amounts of soybeans.

On the other side of the world, Mr. Palmby continued, Japan has doubled its use of feed grains during the last years from 4.3 million to 8.9 million metric tons. Rising living standards in Japan have stimulated the growth of its livestock and poultry industries. Utilization of soybean meal has climbed from 1.4 million metric tons in 1964 to 2.8 million metric tons this year.



SPREADING IT THIN...AND QUICK

THIS YEAR'S CORN CROP, as of November 1, is forecast at 4,104 million bushels, 84 million bushels (2 percent) less than the October forecast. A crop of this size would be 10 percent (474 million bushels) below 1969 and 7 percent (289 million bushels) less than in 1968. . . THIRTY-FIVE MILLION POUNDS OF 1970-crop frozen turkey has been purchased by USDA for use in school lunch programs. Cost is \$12,056,000. . . AN AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE \$12,052,000 worth of hard red winter wheat has been issued to Brazil. The authorization, under a Public Law 480 agreement announced in October, provides for sale of about 7.34 million bushels of winter wheat, grading U.S. 2 or better, with protein not to exceed 11.24 percent. . . CONSERVATION PROJECTS APPROVED under this year's agricultural conservation program (ACP) must be substantially completed by December 31 to earn 1970 cost-shares. If circumstances absolutely prevent completing a practice by the end of December, an extension of time may be requested from the county committee. . . SIXTEEN FOODS ARE included on USDA's December Plentiful Foods list: turkey, oranges, pork, eggs, rice, apples, applesauce, apple juice, cranberries, cranberry sauce, frozen orange juice concentrate, grapefruit, tangerines, potatoes, dry onions and walnuts. The list is part of USDA's program to inform the public and food trade about foods expected to be in abundant supply.



LET US GIVE THANKS . . .

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